

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

EB-08 OMB-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ARA-10 TRSE-00 SSM-03

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-----011611 301054Z/23

R 301000Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6220

CONFIDENTIAL MANAMA 1226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, BA, XF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI EXPECTED IN GULF

1. AMIR TOLD ME MAY 28 THAT SAUDANESE PRESIDENT WILL MAKE A GULF TOUR, PROBABLY THIS WEEK. AMRI SAID THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF ANYTHING COMING OF NIMEIRI'S EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A SUMMIT; POSITIONS OF MAJOR ACTORS STILL TOO FAR APART AND CHIEFS OF STATE HAVE TOO MANY INTERNAL PROBLEMS TO HANDLE. AS EXAMPLE OF LATTER SITUATION, AMIR NOTED SADAT'S ROUND UP OF JOURNALISTS AND IRAQ'S ARREST OF "HUNDREDS OF COMMUNISTS" AND PURGE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. AMIR SAID HE HAD MET WITH KING KHALED IN GENEVA -- BEFORE THE SENATE VOTE -- AND HAD FOUND HIM VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR REAL PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. KING TOLD HIM THAT SAUDI ARABIA NEVERTHELESS HAD TO PURSUE ITS PRESENT POLICIES IN THE HOPE THAT, SOMEHOW, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO RESCUE SADAT AND HIS FRIENDS FROM ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. AMIR ADDED THAT APPROVAL OF AIRCRAFT SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA COULD OF COURSE ENCOURAGE KING KHALAD BUT, STILL, IT TOOK THREE YEARS TO ACHIEVE EVEN THAT MUCH. HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO GET

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ISRAELIS TO BE REASONABLE?

3. AMIR MADE HIS USUAL PLEA FOR FORCEFUL USG ACTION IN ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE AND HORN OF AFRICA. I POINTED OUT THAT WE ARE MOVING IN AFRICA, BUT WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN OUR ACTIONS ARE NOT COUNTERPRODUCTIVE: WE WANT TO REDUCE SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE THERE BUT A DIRECT US-SOVIET CONFRONTATION

WOULD NOT HELP THE AFRICANS SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. I NOTED SOMALIA'S ASSURANCES TO USG AND SAID, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THAT USG NOW MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER SOME HELP TO THAT COUNTRY. I ASSURED AMIR THAT USG REMAINS COMMITTED TO MOVING MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS AHEAD AND, WITH SENATE VOTE ON AIRCRAFT SALES BEHIND US, I FELT CERTAIN USG WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH BOTH ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS IN ATTEMPT TO SET THINGS MOVING AGAIN. AMIR ASKED WHAT I FELT MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK WAS. I SAID I WAS NOT CLOSELY INFORMED BUT FELT THAT KEY POINT NOW IS ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE OF FACT THAT RESOLUTION 142 MUST APPLY ON ALL FRONTS.

4. COMMENT: AMIR WAS MORE THAN USUALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT AREA EVENTS. THOUGH JUST RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A MONTH'S HOLIDAY IN GENEVA, AMIR DID NOT SEEM RESTED. HE COMPLAINED ABOUT EGYPTIAN MUSLIM BROTHERS WHO APPROACHED HIM FOR MONEY IN HIS GENEVA HOTEL LOBBY AND SAID HE INTENDED TO TELL EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR THAT SUCH "LOOSE DOGS" SHOULD BE KEPT AT HOME.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, GULFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAMA01226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-0870
Format: TEL
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978058/aaaaaghs.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80942aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2752335
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI EXPECTED IN GULF
TAGS: PEPR, BA, XF, (NIMIERI, JA\FAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80942aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014